

Housing Legislative Direction

REGIONAL COUNCIL ATTACHMENT #4.4.2

Thursday, Feb. 6, 2003

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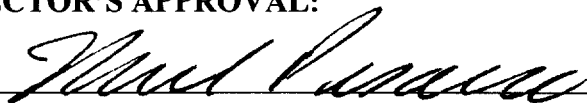
TO: Regional Council

FROM: Community, Economic and Human Development Committee (CEHD)
Jacob Lieb, Senior Regional Planner, (213) 236-1921, lieb@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Housing Legislative Priorities

DATE: February 6, 2002

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:



RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve housing legislative strategy and direction to staff as recommended by the CEHD Committee, as follows:

1. Continue to seek regional Housing Element Reform Priorities as adopted by the regional council last year. Work with the California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) to seek legislation that focuses on regional issues.
2. Support the California League of Cities and the California State Association of Counties in supporting local government positions related to housing.
3. Continue to oppose proposed legislation that creates new penalties for Housing Element non-compliance.

BACKGROUND

On January 9, 2003, the CEHD Committee discussed and took action on SCAG's housing legislative activities for the legislative year. The Committee's actions are in recognition of two basic issues, as described below.

First, the Statewide Working Group on Housing Element Reform last year reached substantial agreement on regional issues, but failed to do so on local/State issues. Because of the stalemate on local/State issues, there were no changes to Housing Element law. Therefore, the Committee feels it is appropriate to direct staff to seek legislative enactment of regional priorities, perhaps in a vehicle that does not address State/local Housing Element issues.

Second, the Committee is aware that the State budget crisis will likely affect housing issue by putting a strain on local finances, and by eliminating any possibilities of new State subsidies. As such, the Committee's action, if confirmed by the Regional Council, directs staff to support the

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League of Cities and CALCOG in protecting local funds available for housing and other community needs.

Finally, the Committee reconfirmed the region's opposition to new penalties for Housing Element non-compliance.

FISCAL IMPACT:

SCAG's on-going legislative activities are included in the FY 2002-03 budget.